

THE GREATEST FRAUD

The So-Called Drainage Canal Will Be So Known for All Time in History.

It Fails to Purify the Supply of City Drinking Water to Any Extent.

It Does Not Remove the Sewage As It Was Intended to Have Done.

It Merely Drains the Pockets of the Taxpayers and Feeds the Already Fat Contractors.

And Also Furnishes Jobs for the Relatives and Friends of the Sanitary Trustees.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Sanitary Trustees have paid out \$35,000,000 already on the drainage canal; notwithstanding the fact that the so-called drainage canal has been in operation over a year and a half;

The city drinking water is more unfit for use to-day than it has ever been. The truth of the matter is that the drainage canal is a great big job, put up to

Rob the tax-payers. Enrich the contractors and furnish soft berths for the relatives and friends of the trustees.

One of the best civil engineers in the West writes as follows on the awful failure of this expensive canal from an engineering standpoint:

To the Editor: Speaking of the so-called drainage canal, "No Contamination" is the heading of an article in the Inter Ocean of recent date. The editorial lays great stress on a report of the Illinois State Board of Health that the sewage of Chicago through the drainage canal does not contaminate the lower Illinois river. One would imagine, upon reading the editorial, that a great, if not a wonderful, discovery had been made, and a result never before accomplished had been attained.

It must be admitted by every fair-minded person that, at the present time, and also during the period preceding the order of the general government reducing the admitted flow from 300,000 or 400,000 to only 200,000 cubic feet per minute, only one-quarter of Chicago's sewage had entered or now enters the misnamed drainage canal, and it is well to bear in mind that the great flow was at the time of and during the most of the investigation referred to in the editorial. It must also be conceded that before this small proportion of sewage reaches the Chicago river it has been diluted at least 60 to 70 per cent.

Is there anything remarkable, under the circumstances, in finding that this one-quarter 60 to 70 per cent diluted sewage, subjected, as claimed at present, to a flow of 200,000 cubic feet of water per minute, previously much greater, and traveling a distance of 161 miles before reaching Peoria, and thence flowing on to the junction with the Mississippi, in all about 322 miles, has been so far diluted as to contain nothing that is contaminating? Possibly the great discovery consists in finding that the one-quarter—probably, however, less than 15 per cent—of highly diluted Chicago sewage, added to the sewage of Pekin and Peoria, with their distilleries and factories, making those cities equal to commercial cities of 200,000 or 350,000 sewage-producing population, and to the sewage of cities, towns, and villages below and above Peoria and Pekin, before reaching the Mississippi, had not succeeded in contaminating the river below (Peoria); and why should it, for if the one-quarter, or 15 per cent of 60 or 70 per cent already diluted Chicago sewage is not still further diluted in its flow of 161 miles to Peoria, then the cry of dilution by an excessive pouring of water is a fake of the worst kind, and possibly it is—for with the further addition of the remaining Chicago sewage and full flow of lake water allowed by law, may it not result in making the Illinois river the vilest kind of an open sewer, and especially so, as the Illinois river below Ottawa and much of the distance above is an exceedingly poor agency for the purification of sewage polluted water.

Chicago is the great sinner, and is bound to come to grief, and this at no distant day. It seems as if the conclusion of the editorial, based upon the report referred to therein, was begging the question to be solved; which is how much water will have to be carried through the drainage canal in order to dilute and free the water from contamination. Will it not need about all the contents of Lake Michigan when the other three-quarters, or 85 per cent of Chicago sewage is admitted to the river?

Six hundred thousand cubic feet per minute will be a mere bagatelle, and will cut so small a figure for a Chicago of 3,000,000 as sewage-producing actual population 6,000,000 or 7,000,000, and of which the remaining sewage, to some extent at least, is barely 10 per cent diluted, that when the full Chicago sewage is added to the sewage of the towns of the Illinois River valley, the present cry of no contamination will be found to have been prematurely raised.

It is possible, but not correct and truthful, to deduce a calculation that because the present one-quarter, 60 to 70 per cent already diluted sewage is free of contamination—ergo, the entire amount of sewage will likewise be free with the same proportionate flow of water added to a greatly disproportionate increase of sewage. Science, thy name should be charity, drawn as a mantle over the most egregious blunder of the century as a sewage disposal medium.

GORDON H. NOTT.

The success of the grafters on the present Drainage Canal has set the gang wild.

It now wants to build canals every where.

The North Branch is to be widened. The South Branch is to be widened. A canal is to be built to Evanston. A canal is to be built to Wilmette. A canal is to be built to the Calumet. The Calumet is to be widened. The gang expect to realize fully \$500,000,000 before they are through. Of course, this may bankrupt the citizens, but what of it?

Opposition to making Evanston and the north shore towns a part of the sanitary district is finding many adherents among the substantial property owners of the north shore. The claim is made that the engineering difficulties to be overcome in such an undertaking are such that the sanitary district could not afford to do the work and that the purpose of making the north shore towns a part of the district is to increase the revenue of the district in order to complete the work already started. Such a plan, say the irate property owners, would tax the new part of the district without giving any local returns.

"It is a 'grafting' scheme," said Col. Henry M. Kidder of North Evanston. "Why do they go ahead and take measures to get us into the sanitary district before there is any detailed proposition made in regard to what kind of a drainage system is to be provided for us? We want to know what we are to have before we begin paying taxes for it. I feel sure that if such a scheme is ever put through it will be long after the Calumet river district is connected with the sanitary district, and when there is a real need in Evanston for such drainage."

"The dreamers speak of this matter as if it were no more of an undertaking than to run a tile ditch across a 40-acre field, but I am one of the many who believe that the cost of such a branch would be nearly equal to the cost of the main channel."

Col. Kidder continued: "It is proposed to run a canal fourteen miles long along the west line of Evanston, starting from the lake at a point in Wilmette, where pumping works are to be situated, to lift the water from the lake to the sewer. The bluff at this point has an average height of thirty feet above the lake level and is battered by the stormiest waves of Lake Michigan. In addition to the constant wearing away of the shore which would make the maintenance of a pumping station there very costly, the bay is frequently filled with anchor ice that would render the operation of the works impossible. A greater difficulty would have to be overcome because of the fact that all of Evanston and the greater part of Wilmette are lower than the sewer would be unless cuts averaging nearly thirty feet in depth were made."

It is further objected by the opponents of the plan that the north branch of the Chicago River overflows with its present drainage at certain seasons, and that it would have to be deepened and widened very materially to accommodate the drainage from the north-shore district.

The idea of a lake-level channel is said to be impracticable, as it would necessitate a cut of over thirty feet for the first two miles and of about twenty feet for the following six miles to bring it to its junction with the river near Bowmanville. At that point the bed of the river is twelve feet above the lake level, and it would be necessary to have pumping works there to lift this sewage into the river.

From the talk at the Monroe, however, all the "improvements" will be carried out whether the people kick or not.

Tennis playing may be all right, but, grammatically speaking, "ten are playing" would sound better.

CZAR AND CZARINA OF RUSSIA, TO WHOM A DAUGHTER WAS RECENTLY BORN.



FOUNDED ON NOVELS.

Fortunes built from the imaginative Pages of Fiction.

Oxygen parties are now the rage in fashionable circles. The gas has the property of reviving tired nerves and bodies in a way which no tonic can equal. It is supplied in tanks, and the guests inhale it through long tubes just as Turkish smokers do tobacco smoke from a hookah. The firm of Elsworth, who supply the gas, is rapidly reaping a fortune, and this fortune they will owe, indirectly at least, to the novelist, Jules Verne.

One of Jules Verne's books—"Dr. Ox's Experiment"—deals with a scientist who flooded a little sleepy Dutch town with oxygen, and thereby produced fruit and vegetables such as the world had never before seen. Incidentally, its effect was also to render the phlegmatic Dutchmen violently quarrelsome. The perusal of this book gave the head of a firm of chemical engineers the idea which is now causing such delight to bored people of fashion.

Jules Verne, with his wonderful prophecies and inventions, which have, since he wrote of them, become actual facts, is responsible for more than one individual rising from poverty to riches. No one was ever more fascinated by a story than was Claude Leveron by Jules Verne's "Journey to the Center of the Earth." In this book the novelist describes how a party climbed down the crater of an extinct Icelandic volcano, and so reached the inner recesses of the earth. Young Leveron, who was at school when he read the book, made up his mind to copy the adventures of his hero, and many years afterward did actually explore the craters of a number of unnamed peaks in New Granada. It was in 1894, while camped on the shores of the river which fills the old crater pit at the top of the San Geronimo Mountain, that he made his famous discovery of the Geronimo emerald field, which has since made him one of the five richest men on the South American continent.

In Edward Bellamy's "Looking Backward," the people of the world, as it is to be a couple of centuries hence, use no money at all. It is, therefore, rather curious that the book should have been the means of bringing a large fortune to an enterprising American who started a colony in Mexico on the lines laid down by Bellamy. The colonists used no money, but they grew immense quantities of fruit and corn, which their manager, whose name was Dalby, sold for the public good, and bought with the money such supplies as they needed. No one seems to have called on Dalby for accounts of his transactions; but one day he disappeared, and it was found that he had taken with him nearly \$75,000, which his colonists had been kind enough to make for him.

A writer who is still alive is responsible for the millions of James McKenna, the finder of the Half-Moon Creek diggings in Alaska. It was a poem of Bret Harte's, written thirty years ago, which put it into McKenna's head to go to Alaska. In the poem in question Bret Harte describes a miner as weighing his pick in the midst of snow and ice in Alaska. Why shouldn't there be gold up there? thought McKenna, although none was then known of. He reached the country two years before

the Klondike rush, and attributes all his good fortune to his favorite poet.

A RICH HEIRESS.

Margaret Carnegie Will Soon Be the Happy Owner of a Castle.

Whether Andrew Carnegie dies undisgraced in not dying rich, it is certain that his little daughter, Margaret, will not come to want. Some years ago Mr. Carnegie erected two great office buildings on Fifth avenue, New York, one of them devoted to his wife and the other to Margaret. By the time that the latter is of marrying age the income from this office building will have accumulated into a great fortune, for the rental of the Fifth avenue building is enormous. And now a magnificent castle is being built for her at Chaun-



MARGARET CARNEGIE.

cey, Westchester County, and by the fall it will be complete and will pass into her exclusive ownership. The castle is a replica of a famous Scotch stronghold and will be luxuriously furnished.

Duties of a Hotel Detective.

Although the hotel detective is an indispensable personage, his duties are not arduous, and his greatest value to the guests is as a cicerone. He is supposed to be an authority on the theater, and to be able to direct men who want to gamble to places where they can find "square games." One hotel detective who was discharged not long ago was said to have made nearly ten thousand dollars a year in tips from guests and commissions from gambling houses. He was able to do the latter many a good turn, and they showed their appreciation for his work by paying him liberally. Nominally he was engaged by the proprietor of the hotel to preserve order, but in reality he was expected to make himself generally useful to visitors. He must know where to pilot parties on slumming expeditions, and the more weird tales he can tell about the places to which he takes them the larger will be his tips.

When a woman returns from a picnic, dragging two or three children along, she is the most tired-looking thing on earth.

FACED DEATH MANY TIMES.

Lad Who Has Been in Imminent Peril Frequently, but Still Lives.

Edward Dempsey, son of a once noted circusman, has been near death's door thirteen times, but the portals are still closed to him. He is 12 years old, and has walked hand in hand with death in every year of his life and never flinched. Saturday morning he met with his thirteenth accident, but that he has passed the hoodoo number in safety is affirmed by the physicians at the Jefferson hotel.

The boy was riding his bicycle down Chestnut street when he ran into a trolley car at Eighth street, striking his head against the iron part of the fender on the rear of the car. Landing his wheel he walked to the hospital, not knowing until he arrived there that he had received a fractured skull as the result of the accident. The doctors say he will recover. He cheerfully bears his confinement and seems concerned only in the base-ball scores.

Edward's father, Patrick Dempsey, who is now employed in a hotel on Eleventh street, below Chestnut, was prominent years ago as an oarsman and coach. When the family lived at Falls of Schuylkill some years back the boy was concerned in more accidents than a hospital ambulance. Once he shot the falls of Wissahickon creek in a frail rowboat and it was a common occurrence for him to fall overboard while rowing and swim ashore.

This remarkable lad has been the victim of a gasoline accident, was hit by trolley cars galore, chased by the angry subjects of his practical jokes and in many other ways made the hero of incidents of which he was too modest to keep account. But the boy survived his thirteenth accident, probably the most serious of all, and the physicians are certain that he will be ready for another one next year.—Philadelphia Press.

The Cailliet Monorail System.

A single-rail road is now quite extensively used in the French colonies, in Africa and elsewhere. A single rail weighing from ten to thirty pounds to the yard is laid on short steel cross-ties. The rails are short to secure portability. No ballast and often no preparation of the way is required. The cars are carried by two wheels placed bicycle fashion. From the slides bars extend at right angles to the body of the car. The ends of the bars are supported by the horse, or man who propels the car, walking alongside the rail. The car-wheels are about ten inches or twenty inches in diameter. A man can propel six wheelbarrow-loads on one of these roads.

A Deadly Revolver.

A revolver which fires fifteen times with one loading is the next thing to be added to the already long list of death-dealing weapons. This, which is the invention of an American, embodies all the latest improvements in firearms—pin-fire, safety-triggers, automatic shell-ejectors, and the rest. The weapon is furnished with two barrels, one placed above the other, and the outer row of ten bullets in the cylinder is fired from the upper barrel, while the inner row of five is fired from the lower barrel by means of a second trigger, which works independently of the other.

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